

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/2/2018

Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Dr., Acton MA, 7:00pm

Attendees: Edward Holcomb, Commissioner; Stephen Trimble, Commissioner; Joe Will, Commissioner; Barbara Willson, Commissioner; Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director; Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator; Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Office Manager.

Also attending: John Smith, Alex Starr, Adam Nolde and David Kleinschmidt, residents.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Stephen Trimble at 7:05 pm.
2. Citizen's Concerns: Nothing to report.
3. Consent Agenda: September 4, 2018 Minutes accepted, 4:0.
4. Action Item Review from September 4, 2018 Minutes: Nothing to report.
5. Proposal – Pump Track for Mountain Bike Skills: Four residents who are coaches and parents of children participating in the Gnargonauts mountain bike team attended the meeting: John Smith, Alex Starr, Adam Nolde and David Kleinschmidt. A slide show was presented illustrating growing interest in mountain biking as an organized, sanctioned sport. Mountain biking appeals to those who prefer individual competition -- similar to skateboarding, as opposed to group play such as football or baseball. There is a desire to make mountain biking locally available with the goal of its eventually becoming a varsity letter sport. Support was requested for a mountain bike skills development area within Acton -- commonly known as a "pump track" due to the strategy of using body weight and balance, rather than pedaling, for momentum. Designed to develop a range of technical skills over varied terrain, pump tracks are constructed with features made of rock, wood and earth. The required amount of land is around a half-acre. Regular maintenance is necessary with the addition of five to six yards of dirt twice a year. Several possible locations were discussed. Acton is at the center of regional interest in mountain biking; the proposed track would be expected to serve multiple communities. While the Recreation Department lacks funds to back the project, the Commissioners outlined a detailed action plan on behalf of this group advising them what steps to take next in pursuit of their goal.
6. BOS Recommendation for Jones Field / Martin Street Sidewalk Planning: Melissa Rier reported a \$60,000 donation to the Town from the developer of a property next to Jones Field. The donation is to be split between construction of a neighborhood sidewalk and the Jones Field renovation fund. Since both projects will cost more than \$60,000, an even split between the two was deemed fair. Melissa asked the Commissioners for a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending \$30,000 for Jones. The playground replacement piece of the overall renovation plan will cost \$285,000: The Jones citizen group has raised \$11,000 (with a goal of \$50,000), and CPA funding will be sought in the amount of \$235,000. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the \$30,000 allocation to Jones and will write the letter of recommendation to BOS.

7. Reports:

- a. Rail Trails: Nothing to report.
- b. NARA Sports Pavilion: Cathy Fochtman, Tom Tidman, Andy Brockway and Andy Richardt met with Steven Gentilucci of Consigli Construction on September 18 to tour the Miracle Field and to give its history and current use. Consigli is being asked to support two aspects of plans for the modular buildings: 1) flat-work site preparation; and, 2) renovation of the exterior siding, windows and doors.
- c. T.J. O'Grady Skate Park: Nothing to report.
- d. Playgrounds: (See Paragraph 6., above.)
- e. Community Preservation Committee: Joe Will reported the next meeting scheduled for 10/11/18. He moved that Steve become the new Recreation liaison to CPC. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Stephen Trimble as CPA liaison. Joe will email Katie Green to notify her of the change.
- f. Community Gardens:
North Acton: Ed Holcomb asked whether it would be possible to plow the garden at year-end as opposed to rototilling. Limitations of available equipment were discussed.

Morrison Farm: Mowing and brush-hogging in the meadow was discussed with regard to preserving existing blackberry bushes.

8. New Business: Steve reported on the West Acton Oktoberfest event with positive public feedback.

Barbara Willson has drafted a two-minute statement about the Recreation Commission, as requested by the Volunteer Coordinating Committee, to be broadcast on Acton TV and YouTube. Her presentation will focus on future challenges facing the Recreation Department and decisions to be made by the Recreation Commission that might interest those considering serving on the Commission. Cathy will review and make suggestions. Barbara also volunteered to be Recreation Commission liaison to the Council on Aging Board. She will attend their meetings and report on Recreation activities.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm.

Minutes submitted by Mary Lou Repucci.